



# SCHOOL BUS, INC.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT"** **MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER**

**BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THESE SESSIONS IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!!**

**2006 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING and TRAIN the TRAINER SESSIONS ARE SET**

This year we will be offering the required annual School Bus Driver Training (4 hours) and the "Train the Trainer" (TTT) (6 hours) sessions across the State. The following rules indicate who a bus driver is and who is required to attend this annual training. Training will be offered across the state, the same as last year. If you wish to have school bus driver training in your area please contact Harlow's Bus Sales in Webster, SD at 1-888-419-4023. The training sites will be posted on the State's web site and will be included in later newsletters. The deadline for having a training scheduled in your area will be July 3, 2006. Be sure to read all this information as it has changed from last year.

### **TO: All Interested "Train the Trainers"**

If you are interested in training your own school bus driver staff you must attend one of the following Train the Trainer (TTT) classes to become certified to train. Each session will be six hours in length. Each attendee will be able to use four hours of the class that fits their transportation needs the best. The State will only accept training lists turned in by one of the certified TTT. There will be three TTT sessions across the state again this year.

The TTT sessions this year will include training for the new Homeland Security's School Bus Highway Watch Program. Homeland Security will fly an individual to South Dakota on the following training dates to train and certify all the TTT'ers to teach the School Bus Highway Watch program. This training is very vital to continue the fight against any type of terrorist activity in the United States. This training will take up two hours of the required four hours to meet the State's training requirement.

Each session will be from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Homeland Security Training will be from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM. There will be a short break from 10:30 to 10:45. Dan will start the remaining TTT training at 10:45 to 3:00. There will be a lunch break from 12:30 to 1:30. Attendees will be responsible for their own meals and room if they wish to stay overnight.

The first TTT session will be in Sioux Falls, SD on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at School Bus, Inc., 5100 W 8<sup>th</sup> St. (from the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> St & Marion Rd, go 1 block east on 8<sup>th</sup> St).

The second TTT session will be in Pierre, SD at the Ramkota Hotel on Wed, July 19, 2006 in the Lake Francis room "A". The hotel address is 920 W. Sioux Ave. next to the Missouri River Bridge on the north side of Sioux Ave.

The third TTT session will be in Rapid City, SD on Thursday, July 20, 2006 at the Rapid City School District Transportation Facility, 3775 S Hwy #79 (Cambell St). It is located about 2 blocks south of the intersection of Cambell and Fairmont, take the service road to the school complex and then to building "D".

Classes may be limited to the capacity of the room. Please register early. These will be the only three TTT classes held this year. Cost for each attendee will be \$75.00 per person. You may bring a check made payable to **School Bus, Inc.** the day of the training, pre-pay by sending us a check in the mail or we will bill the company (cost for non-tax exempt companies attending in the following cities will be: Sioux Falls \$79.44 w/tax, Pierre & Rapid City \$79.50 w/tax) or school district after the training is completed. School Bus, Inc. will purchase a set of tapes for the TTT to use for their training. All attendees should bring a notebook, pen and pencil for the classes. The deadline for TTT registration will be Friday, July 3, 2006 for all three classes. The cut-off date is very important because Homeland Security needs to know how much

material to bring with them. You may register for any class by calling Jim Shafer, sending a fax or an email to: [sbi-manager@sf.k12.sd.us](mailto:sbi-manager@sf.k12.sd.us) Please reference "TTT, date and location you wish to attend".

### **House Passes Price Gouging Legislation**

From NSTA Newsletter

This week by a vote of 389-35, the House passed legislation expanding Federal authority on price gouging with up to \$150 million in penalties for violations. Also under consideration was refinery streamlining legislation, which the House was unable to pass because of the procedure used to bring the bill up for a vote. The bill failed despite overwhelming support. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) has indicated that he intends to bring the refinery legislation back to the Floor next week.

NSTA, in partnership with NAPT and NASPTS, was able to quickly send a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) encouraging the support of both the refinery streamlining bill and the price gouging bill. Members and staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee were very appreciative of this letter and understanding of the impact fuel prices are having on our industry. In addition, House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-IN) issued a press release quoting extensively from our school bus industry letter. In our joint letter we urged a bipartisan approach to the problem and specifically mentioned support for the School Energy Crisis Relief Act, sponsored by Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA). The bill would provide grant funding to help defray energy costs of the most disadvantaged school systems. NSTA will continue to work with Congressman Baca's office in hopes of moving this or other energy legislation in the weeks ahead.

### **Recalls**

**Blue Bird All American and Vision**, manufactured from July 7 to November 8, 2005, and equipped with Ricon S and K series platform style wheelchair lifts. The vertical support arms for the lifts were improperly welded, preventing the lift from stowing properly. It may not be possible to close the lift door, causing the vehicle interlocks to remain engaged and prevent movement of the vehicle or lose the ability to unload passengers with disabilities from the vehicle. Blue Bird is expected to begin notifying customers on May 12.

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